

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants have rewritten claim 19 in independent form by including therein all of the limitations of claims 15 and 16, from which claim 19 previously depended. In rewriting claim 19 in independent form, Applicants have corrected the antecedent basis problems noted by the Examiner in the third paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action and have revised "elements" to read --element--. Applicants have also corrected the typographical error in claim 21 and have canceled claims 15-18 and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Since the foregoing amendments merely rewrite a claim in independent form, cancel claims and comply with the requirements of form contained in the outstanding Office Action, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments to claims 19 and 21, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are requested.

In view of the cancellation of claims 15-18 and 30, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in the outstanding Office Action is moot.

Applicants note the indication that claims 2-13 and 29 are allowed and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 19, 21 and 22. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's objections to the drawings on the Office Action Summary (Form PTOL-326) is noted. In support of this objection, it been urged by the Examiner that the drawings are informal for lines and numbers not being clear and uniform. This objection

is traversed.

It is noted that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer considers drawings as formal or informal. Drawings are either acceptable or not acceptable. It is noted that drawings will be accepted by the Office of Initial Patent Examination if the drawings are readable and reproducible for publication purposes, and that the Examiner should review the drawings for disclosure of the claimed invention and for properties of reference numerals. Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) 608.02(b) I. In the present application, it appears the drawings have been accepted by the Office of Initial Patent Examination. Accordingly, the drawings should be acceptable. The Examiner's objection to the drawings (lines and numbers not being clear or uniform) are not the type of issues to be reviewed by the Examiner. Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) 608.02(b) I. Rather, the types of issues noted by the Examiner should be reviewed by the Office of Initial Patent Examination. Since the Office of Initial Patent Examination has not objected to the drawings, it is submitted the drawings are acceptable. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are requested.

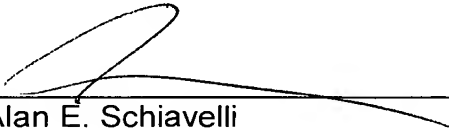
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout

& Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 321.43756X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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